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News Release

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Registration for Junior Lifeguard Program begins May 1

LĪHU'E – County officials announced that registration for the Kaua'i Junior Lifeguard Program will begin on Saturday.

The program is free and is designed to teach young people, ages 13 to 17, ocean safety and lifesaving skills. Additionally, it covers drug awareness, physical conditioning and competition skills.

To be eligible for the program, youngsters must be committed to the challenges it offers and be able to swim and run 100 yards non-stop without assistance.

Applications can be picked up at any lifeguard tower including: Kē'ē; Hā'ena; Anahola; Keālia; Lydgate; Po'ipū; Salt Pond; and Kekaha.

Applications are also available at the Kaua'i Fire Department headquarters located across Līhu'e Big Save in the Hale Pūmehana Building, 3083 Akahi St.

Registration is limited to 50 participants per site.

There are five sites scheduled for this year's Junior Lifeguard program: Salt Pond, June 28 to July 2; Lydgate, June 28 to July 2; Hanalei, July 19 to 23; Po'ipū, July 19 to 23; and Kalāpaki, July 26 to 30. The week-long sessions run Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm.

Participants will need to bring their own lunch, sunscreen and a towel to the training daily.

According to Kalani Vierra, a junior lifeguard instructor and Ocean Safety Bureau supervisor, the week-long sessions have become very popular.

“We started with about a dozen kids in 1997,” said Vierra. “It keeps growing. Last year, over 225 signed up for the program.”

He attributes the strong interest in the ocean safety program to Kaua‘i’s youngsters spending a lot time at the beach from an early age and also to the fact that the Kaua‘i Junior Lifeguard team captured the state championship for the past six years.

“We’re very proud of our participants,” Vierra said. “They represent Kaua‘i well.”

Program sponsors include the County of Kaua‘i, Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, Kaua‘i Lifeguard Association, and many generous businesses and individuals.

For more information, please call the Ocean Safety Bureau at 241-4984 or 241-4980.

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